

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 39**  
**INCIDENT NO. 99-009**  
**DATE: November 12, 1999      TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storm and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: On November 12, Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,446.48 feet.  
As winter approaches, peer counselors with the Crisis Counseling Program anticipate that feelings of isolation and uncertainty and symptoms of depression and anxiety will increase among the citizens of North Dakota. Because of high ground water tables throughout the state, residents are worried that more flood-related problems will occur next spring.
4. RESOURCES:  
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.  
STATE: No change from previous reports.  
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Three Long Term Recovery Teams have scheduled regular meetings to discuss ways to help disaster victims find resources and address unmet needs. The Family Interfaith Rural Support Team (FIRST) will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Grace Lutheran Church in Bottineau. Helping and Support (HandS) Interfaith Coalition will meet the second Monday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at different locations. Sakakawea Interagency/Faith Team (SIFT) members are scheduled to meet the second Thursday of each month at noon at the Total Life Center in Garrison.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The state/federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) in Bismarck will close on November 19; however, the voluntary agency coordinator and public assistance employees with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

will remain in Bismarck. North Dakota Emergency Management staff working with the Public Assistance, Individual and Family Assistance and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs will also remain at the DFO location.

The N.D. Department of Human Services staff reported that two staff members from regional human service center will provide crisis counseling services to the residents of Churchs Ferry. Lutheran Rural Response, through its contract with the Department of Human Services, has hired a social worker to oversee crisis counseling programs on the reservations of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Standing Rock and the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold.

### **Program Updates for FEMA 1279-DR-ND**

The Public Assistance Program has paid \$28.8 million to local governments and eligible private and non-profit organizations to complete infrastructure repairs to flood-damaged sites. The program has received a total of 293 applications. Expectations are that the Public Assistance Program could reach \$40 million.

Estimated federal funding levels available statewide for projects through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the 1999 flood are currently \$10.3 million. Application for the HMGP grant dollars total \$28,638,748. The state mitigation team has met and prioritized the applications and is investigating additional funding sources in an attempt to address needs as much as possible. The application for buyout of residents of Churchs Ferry has been provided to FEMA Region VIII as of November 9, 1999, for review and concurrence.

North Dakota Job Service has received 6,808 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. As of November 10, \$11,514,383 in benefits has been paid to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who have lost income because of disaster conditions.

Of the 12,321 North Dakotans who registered for assistance through FEMA's teleregistration center, 7,791 are eligible for the Disaster Housing Program. To date, FEMA has paid \$19,908,192.70 in benefits. Of that amount, \$9,589,095 has been paid for expanded habitability measures designed to mitigate future flood damages. Those measures include interior drain systems, sump pumps, gutters and downspouts, basement fills and land sloping work.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 6,471 applications and has approved \$1,240,052.73 in benefits. Of that amount, \$247,679 has been designated for mitigation measures to include installation of dry wells designed to alleviate ground water pressure and construction of mechanical rooms for homes where basement fills have occurred.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has issued 10,197 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$10,557,000 in low-interest loans as of November 10. Of that amount, approximately 72 percent has been designated for expanded habitability measures.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as indicated in this report and previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, SBA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:  
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director